



International Amateur Radio Union Region 1 VHF - UHF - μ W Newsletter

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New VHF manager Handbook version 7.0

The recommendations approved during the Varna conference are integrated in the new VHF manager handbook version 7.00. This was ready on January 15th and send to all VHF managers and member societies. It will be put on the IARU-R1 website as soon as possible. If you did not receive a copy of it, please send me a note.

Changes in the VHF handbook...

- How does it work?

After the publication of the handbook there were some discussions about the interpretation of some topics, such as contests or WSPR band planning. Some people asked to make changes in the actual handbook, without having a proper discussion.

This is not possible because substantive changes can only be done after they are approved by C5 during a General Conference or an Interim Meeting (except for typos etc).

So if you find there is need to change something in the handbook, please make a proposal for an upcoming meeting.

In the meanwhile the proposed changes will be covered in this newsletter.

IARU R-1 VHF & up contests

Important changes

During the last conference in Varna the chapter about the IARU-R1 contests were completely re-written. (see appendix A)

We want to highlight some important changes:-

- **Addition of the 70 MHz band:** during the June contest you can use the 50 and 70 MHz bands in separate sections.
- **Addition of an extra section for MGM:** in the 50MHz and 70MHz bands you can also use Machine Generated Modes (there are separate sections with and without MGM)
- **Addition of a 6-hour section:** in the 144 and 435 MHz bands there is the possibility to score over a shorter 6hour period, instead of just the full 24hours (single and multi).
- **ATV contest rules were completely rewritten and the date moved to June.**

All these changes should improve the participation rate for our contests and the use of our bands.

We would appreciate that the member societies make the necessary communications to promote this changes and increase activity.

Contest Robot

The use of the contest robot to collect and evaluate the contests will be continued. In the upcoming months we will update the robot to cope with the new contest rules. We will also improve some features.

We would like to promote the use of the robot to upload the logs, not only for the Region 1 contest but also for the sub-regional contests, so the exchange between VHF managers is easier for contest evaluation.

Advice

In the new VHF handbook and the contest rules there are some restrictions about the use of other communication methods to obtain information about the QSO's:

No attempt should be made during the QSO to obtain any part of the required exchange information via other communication methods such as the Internet chat channel, DX Cluster, talk-back on another amateur band, telephone etc.. Such a secondary method invalidates the contest QSO. Self-spotting (advertising its own frequency) on any other communication means, like DX Cluster, chat rooms, etc. shall not be used during the contest. (Varna 2014).

After the conference there were discussions about this rule. It is not the purpose to ban the use of these tools, but to use them in a responsible way. So here are a few guidelines about good practices. Like we said this cannot be included in the new VHF managers handbook, but it can be a guideline for now:

Acceptable Examples when using secondary method:

"Shall we make a sked on 144.388?"

"I have QRM, let's move to 144.218 kHz and start again"

"Thank you for a nice QSO" Note: only after the QSO has completed on the radio

Unacceptable Examples when using a secondary method:

"I need your serial number"

"Please repeat all information"

"Nothing received, please try again"

Member states are free to make a proposal for the upcoming meetings of C5.

Contesting should be fun, and a challenge to improve your skills to DX, receiving weak signals, evaluate the given locator,.. So, like they say in some other sports where there are no judges: **"When you cheat In a contest, the only person you're cheating is yourself."**

World Radiocommunication Conference

WRC 2015 will be held in November 2015 in Geneva. The main agenda items include topics that affect amateurs in the 5MHz, 5GHz, 10GHz, 24GHz and 77GHz bands. However another important issue is that a WRC decides on the agenda items for the next conference (which will be WRC-19). For this latter matter Region-1 currently has proposals in CEPT concerning potential WRC-19 agenda items for VHF/UHF/ μ Wave:

- 50MHz: Allocating 50-52MHz in Region-1 to harmonise with Region-2/3 (including adding an amateur satellite service allocation)
- 3.4GHz: Harmonisation of amateur microwave bands – with a current focus on a Region-1 allocation of 3400-3410MHz to align with Region-2/3

In addition commercial users are proposing their own new WRC-19 items (such as more frequencies for mobile broadband) which may also affect us. WRC-15 is approaching quickly, so it is important that all member societies obtain the understanding and support of amateur radio matters with their regulators.

There is a lot of pressure on our microwave bands, for commercial usage, especially in the 2.3GHz band and some parts of 1.2 GHz (Galileo). We need to be prepared to defend our bands and/or find some alternatives if there are changes. For example we may need to raise the option of a new allocation such as 1300 -1310 MHz in order to mitigate restrictions that are appearing in the existing 23cm band.

In the meanwhile we can all take some actions:-

- Intensify the use of the UHF/SHF and μ Wave bands (***“Use them or lose them”***) and also demonstrate/publish how innovative our usage is
- Improving our contacts with our regulators, so they can be more supportive of amateur radio within CEPT or ITU
- Follow new Handbook recommendations – such as for lower ATV repeater duty cycles in difficult bands

Executive council IARU-R1 2015

This EC was held in Frankfurt, Germany on 7 and 8 February. The chairmen of C4 and C5 were invited to join this meeting. The following points are interesting for C5:

- **WRC15 (and WRC19)** (see also point 4)
It was recognised that in future WRCs, the IARU would need to pay particular attention to existing microwave allocations. LA2RR reminded the meeting about the procedure for “Future Agenda Items” for a WRC:
 - agree at regional level,
 - then to the AC,
 - then to find national administration(s) who will propose it to CEPT or ITU.
- **IARU-R1 Website**
The website will be restructured and made more user-friendly. In the future you will find all documents and papers will be easier to find.
- **Interim meeting 2016** (see 6)

Interim meeting 2016

The interim meeting will be held in Vienna in the second half of April 2016. The chairmen of C4 (HF) and C5 (VHF) have been asked to organize this meeting. It will be also the first time that members of the new C7 (EMC) will be together at an interim meeting (based on a decision from the Varna conference). More details will follow in the next newsletter.

Long term objectives

- Some of the points in the VHF managers handbook are outdated (such as Section 7.8 about packet radio and BBS). Newer matters are not fully covered (digital modes such as DMR, D-STAR, connections with internet, ...). It would be nice to have some discussion about new topics.
- How to improve the participation on the VHF/UHF/ μ Wave contests
- And finally the last objective: to stimulate activity on the VHF/UHF/SHF and microwave bands. It would be nice to have more discussions in C5 about stimulating activities on our bands and not only discuss band planning or technical and operational matters.

To support this we need an open discussion using not only the reflector, but also our Wiki. We are looking at the possibilities to initiate a second Wiki, open for everyone interested in our bands, to join the discussion.

70MHz

In June 2014, Dave Court EI3IO was appointed by Region-1 to launch a new 4m initiative to obtain regulatory recognition for a 70 MHz allocation in Europe (CEPT). At present there is not a formal allocation. However in the European Frequency Table (ECA), footnote EU9 does recognize our increasing use:-

EU9 - In a growing number of CEPT countries, parts of the band 70.0-70.5 MHz are also allocated to the Amateur service on a secondary basis

The IARU-R1 initiative has now made significant progress. CEPT-WGFM is currently consulting on a change that will upgrade the status of amateur radio to a secondary allocation on the new basis of:-

EU9 - CEPT countries may authorize all or parts of the band 69.9-70.5 MHz to the Amateur service on a secondary basis

The consultation on the ECA table does not include all our other requests (including EU12 which affects our 70cm band) and we are aware that some countries will oppose the 70MHz change. European Member Societies who wish to support 70MHz are asked to contact David EI3IO who can provide advice and templates for responding to CEPT.

70 MHz in Malta

The 70 MHz – 70.5 MHz band has been allocated to Amateur Radio use on secondary basis and included in the National Frequency Plan as published by the Malta Communications Authority (MCA) on 13 Feb 2015. There are quite a few local stations interested in being active on 4 m.

Varia

Contest analysis

At a recent S5 meeting a group of S5 hams prepared analysis of past IARU R1 VHF contests. More is available at

<http://slovhf.net/vhfmanager/modules/results.php?ContestID=133&language=S5>

It could be an interesting project to continue this work with further analysis and data, not only from the IARU-R1 contests, but also from the sub regional contests. Maybe we can find some answers on:-

- what could be the target score
- why some areas have such low activity/scores?
- why the activity during night is so low
- why the percentage of received logs from some countries is so low
- where are missing logs
- Propagation analysis
-

This can be one of the topics on our Wiki.

International VHF DX Summer Cup 2014

To encourage activity on our VHF bands (50/70/144 MHz) the UBA started a new activity contest in 2014. The winners of this First International DX Summer cup were:-

- 50 MHz: S59A
- 70 MHz: ON7EQ
- 144 MHz: ON4KHG

The winners will receive an award

You can find more info about this on:

http://www.uba.be/sites/default/files/uploads/vhf/contests/Summervcup_GB.pdf

Website:	http://www.iaru-r1.org/index.php/vhfuhsshf
Handbook:	http://iaruwiki.oevsv.at/index.php/File:VHF_Handbook_7.00.pdf
Newsletters:	http://www.iaru-r1.org/index.php/documents/Documents/Newsletters/VHF-Newsletters/
Wiki	http://iaruwiki.oevsv.at
Contest robot	http://iaru.oevsv.at/v_upld/prg_list.php